




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (3.49 pm): It is telling to hear from the member for Toowoomba North that the new policy of the LNP if they were ever to win government would be to have an endless estimates process where all members of parliament could come in and ask questions for as long as they like.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr POWER: That is apparently the policy. However, what we found out from the member for Toowoomba South, his brother Toowoomba member, is that that was not to be the case at all. Instead it would be an investigation of the issues. We know not what they say in opposition they will do, but we know what they actually did in government.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr POWER: I certainly watched it on TV and I certainly saw the process. More importantly, you were here. Members on that side of the House should be deeply ashamed. We should never forget that what they did is take all of those committees—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order! Member for Logan, please direct all comments through the chair.

Mr POWER: We should never forget that those opposite held those committees over just two days. There were only seven members that they were up against. They were running so scared of them that they packed those committees into as little time as possible so they would have as little media scrutiny as possible and would have as little time for examination as possible. They were scared.

We know that it is not going to be what the member for Toowoomba South pretends is the answer. If that is the case, put that as a policy. We know that their policy is going to be to have an investigation. We saw what they actually did in government—they tried to hide, hide, hide. They sacked committees when they got embarrassed and tried to hide, hide, hide.

I wish to apologise to the House because I gave far too much time to the, frankly, hopeless opposition which had no sensible questions that enlightened anyone about anything to do with the budget. There were 620 minutes of hearing for my committee alone. That is 10.33 hours. If we were to listen to the opposition today we would think that they did not get much of that 10.33 hours of questioning. Instead, they got five hours and 29 minutes of questioning. I have been doing some quick maths and it is pretty obvious that we only got four hours and eight minutes of questioning. They had over an hour and 20 minutes more of question not a few seconds more as the member for Toowoomba South tried to pretend.

The other thing to raise is their strategy. We saw the member for Kawana do a theatrical swoon as he rushed out of the room in order to be captured on camera. When they did not report that he immediately came back to ask further questions. He was so insulted he came back for more. We need

to get rid of the cheap theatrics of running out and put serious questions. We also heard the groaning and noises from the Leader of the Opposition which were frankly unbecoming and reflected very poorly on him. We had 62 interruptions. I could not even count the number of interruptions of the ministers that I dealt with. It was simply disgusting that they could not ask a question and allow it to be answered.

We should never forget that in opposition they make noise but in government they hide. We should also note the tone of the hearings. The opposition tried to make a joke. They would ask questions that were well outside the standing orders and when I immediately put those questions to the minister they would be insulted that I had not pulled them up and they could not have a fight over process. I immediately put the question to the minister and the minister then gave the answer. They had over five hours and 29 minutes to ask questions. It is a reflection on those opposite that after those five hours and 29 minutes all they could do when they came out was complain about the process instead of highlight any of the things relevant to the budget.

I take issue with the member for Miller who gave those opposite a hint—do some research, do some work, come with a decent set of questions. Why would the member say that to them? They might do it. We of course know that that will not be the process. Next year we will see more theatrics, more groaning, more running out of the room and none of the hard work that Queenslanders expect.